THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Telephone under OYT category

583. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons to whome telephones under 'OYT' category have been given during the last financial year i.e. 1987-88, Statewise;

(b) the number of applicants for telephones under OYT category till 31st March, 1988; and

(c) by when these applicants would be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Flared up Natural Gas

584. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we are unable to channelise a huge quantity of natural gas to meet our energy requirements and, hence, allow it to be flared up and wasted;

(b) whether any comprehensive proposal has, been made for maximum utilisation of this flared-up gas and produce energy and submitted to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry for implementation:

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the constraints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) During 1987-88, a quantity of about 9.3 MMCMD of gas was flared out of the total production of 31.2 MMCMD.

(b) to (d) The main reason for flaring of gas is non-offtake of committed quantity of gas by the consumers and lack of adequate compression facilities. To rectify the above, additional consumers are being identified and compression facilities are being augmented to enhance the utilisation of natural gas. In addition a 15 per cent discount on natural gas price is given to fallback users who can lift the gas when committed users fail to do so.

Medical Termination Scheme In the Public Sector Industries

585. SHRI K. GOPALAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Medical Termination Scheme under which termination of service of an employee due to continued ill health is not treated as retrenchment, has been introduced for the employees working in the public industries;

(b) what are the features of this Scheme; and

(c) what is the total number of employees benefited so far under this Scheme?